

Reuse • Recycle • Conserve

City of Kirkland Public Works Department



WATCH FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Collection Event
(October 11)

INSIDE

Prepare for Winter Weather
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Recycling Collection Event
NEW - Ask Rita

Visit us at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle

Autumn Lawn Care-----Naturally

Autumn is an excellent time for the fertilization and rehabilitation of your lawn.

Mulching with Leaves

Your lawn mower makes a great leaf-mulcher, tearing and shredding leaves into tiny pieces that are easily digested by worms and bacteria. You can mulch leaves all autumn as long as the layer of fallen leaves does not exceed one inch. It also helps if the leaves are relatively dry. Simply run your mower over the lawn while walking slowly, giving the mower blades plenty of time to shred the leaves on your lawn. Consider wearing goggles and a mask covering your nose and mouth to prevent inhalation of dust and debris.



Other uses for shredded leaves:

- Apply the shredded leaves to garden beds and under trees and shrubs.
- Add shredded leaves to your compost bin or pile.

Fertilization

Autumn is the best time for fertilizing your lawn, when grasses are building root reserves for the next year. Use a soil test kit (available at most gardening centers) to determine your lawn's needs and to determine proper application rates of "natural organic" or "slow release" fertilizers.

Aeration

Aerate your lawn in the fall and spring to help improve grass root development and water penetration. You can either rent a core-aerating machine or hire a lawn care company.

Seeding

Overseed thin areas of your lawn with Northwest-adapted grass seed blends. Top dress the areas by raking in $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of compost to cover the seed and improve the soil.

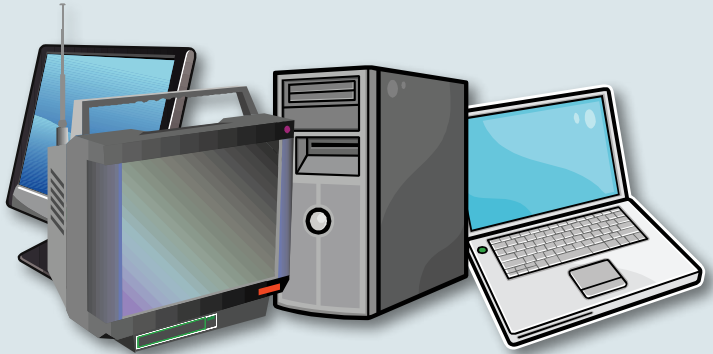
The In's and Out's of the New Electronics Recycling Law

Effective January 1, 2009, a new product stewardship law in Washington will require manufacturers to provide electronics recycling services at no cost to households, small businesses, charities, school districts, and small governments.

At least one collection site will be established in Kirkland (yet to be determined) and at least one site will be available in each county.

- Items accepted - televisions, desktop and laptop computers, and monitors
- Items not accepted - cell phones, printers, scanners, fax machines, or other electronic devices.

For more information on the new law, please read the Washington State Department of Ecology's Focus Sheet at www.ecy.wa.gov and search for "electronics recycling" or call the City of Kirkland Recycling Hotline at (425) 587-3812.



Take the Plunge, Make a Pledge



Take the plunge! Pledge to make a few small changes in your daily life that will help improve water quality in our local waterways.

- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash or on your lawn.
- Never discard trash or yard waste down storm drains or in the street.
- Pick up your pet's waste, even in the yard (it's raw sewage!).
- Use lawn chemicals sparingly – or not at all.
- Reduce car trips. Combine errands, carpool, bus, bike or walk.

Pledge today and receive a shopping bag as a recognition gift. Go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/pledge to take the pledge.

Be an Earth Saver! Volunteer Soon!

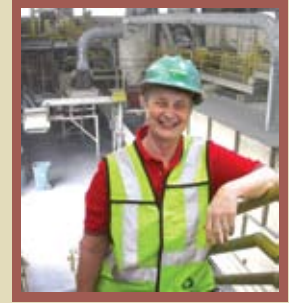
Many environmental stewardship opportunities are available with the City of Kirkland. Go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us and enter "Kirkland Volunteer Opportunities" in the search box to find a complete listing of opportunities.

Ask Rita: Perplexed About Plastic

Dear Rita,

I don't like to put things in the garbage if they can be recycled, but plastics confuse me! I know I can recycle plastic bottles, but what about my plastic berry containers and iced coffee cups? They have recycling symbols on them, but someone told me they aren't accepted? Why not?

Perplexed about Plastic



Rita Smith

Dear Perplexed:

Plastic recycling certainly can be confusing. I encourage you to **ignore the recycling symbols** on the plastic containers! Not all plastic items with recycling symbols on them can currently be recycled. Some are not valuable enough to warrant the cost of collection, sorting, shipping, processing and manufacturing.

In addition, the number inside the recycling arrows is not a reliable identifier of whether or not an item is accepted. Although the number identifies the type of resin used in making the product, some items with the same number inside the arrows cannot be recycled together because they have been manufactured using different heating and molding processes. (For example, markets that accept #1 plastic bottles usually don't want #1 plastic cups.)

Plastic Bottles, Jugs and Dairy Tubs

To avoid confusion and contamination, **ignore the recycling symbols on plastic** containers and packaging. At this time, please put only plastic bottles, jugs and dairy tubs that have not contained toxic products in your recycling container.

Reduce Your Use of Plastic

It is even better than recycling to reduce the number of unnecessary "disposable" containers you use. (Collecting, sorting, shipping and manufacturing recycled materials into new products require a good deal of energy and generate greenhouse gases!) Take your own durable bag when you shop, and encourage your family to drink free, high quality "Northwest water" right from your faucet. Bottled water requires vital resources for bottle manufacturing, filling, transporting and storage. If you don't like the taste of water from your faucet, you can install an under sink water filter or use a portable water filter.

Plastic is a wonderful material for many purposes, but we need to use it wisely.

More information on Reducing, Reusing and Recycling:

www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland

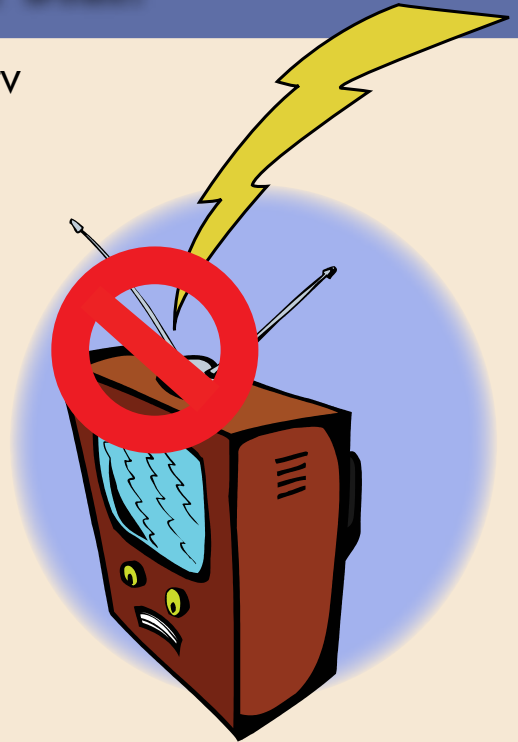
As Waste Management's Community Education Director, Rita Smith promotes recycling and waste prevention for many Pacific Northwest cities, counties, residents and businesses. She manages Waste Management's community website, www.wmnorthwest.com/Kirkland and speaks at many community events. A sustainability activist for over 20 years, Rita is on the Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) Board of Directors and has been inducted into the WSRA Hall of Fame.

Digital TV Transition: Think Again Before Touching that Dial!

You're probably already dialed in to the digital TV transition that takes effect on February 17, 2009 when full-power television stations nationwide must switch from the analog method of transmitting TV signals to only broadcasting a digital signal. If you're thinking you need to recycle your TV, think again! There's no need to recycle your TV just because it uses "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna.

The U.S. Department of Commerce advises that if all of your TV sets are connected to cable, satellite or other pay service, check with your provider to see how they will support your analog set after February 17, 2009. If at least one TV set is not hooked up to cable, satellite or other pay service, then you must either buy a converter box, buy a TV with a digital tuner or connect your analog TV to cable, satellite, or other pay service.

If you are not sure what type of TV you have, go to www.dtvtransition.org. To apply for a coupon to help pay for a converter box, go to www.DTV2009.org, apply by mail at PO Box 2000, Portland, OR, 97208, call 1(888) DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009) or fax 1(877)-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632).



Correction About Returning Unwanted Sharps



In our spring issue we reported that many local pharmacies have free drop-off collection programs for medical sharps. We would like to clarify that the programs are not free of charge and recommend you check with the individual pharmacies to determine their rules.

Fee-for-service mail back programs are offered through Waste Management www.wastemd.com and GRP & Associates www.sharpsdisposal.com.

Comments

The City of Kirkland would like to hear your comments about this newsletter or your suggestions for future issues. Please call (425) 587-3907 or email vlock@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

* * * Get Ready for Old Man Winter * * *

As the clouds once again begin to gather and rainy weather returns, now is a good time to prepare for the oncoming winter and possible emergencies.

Before the Cold Hits

Take a few simple precautions to help save yourself from the mess, headache, and cost of burst frozen pipes:

- Disconnect and drain all garden hoses.
- Cover all hose spigots with protective coverings.
- Turn off and drain or blow out irrigation systems.
- Insulate all pipes in your home's unheated crawl spaces, basement and attic.
- Seal leaks and close foundation vents to minimize cold air entering your house and freezing pipes. Open vents again in the spring to prevent dry rot.



Prepare Your Family for Winter Storms

- Organize an evacuation plan for your family.
- Know where utility shut-offs are located and how to use them. Visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us and enter helpful hints in the search box for information regarding your water meter.
- Stock at least several days of emergency supplies at home, at work, and in your vehicles. For information on emergency preparedness, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/prepare.



Snow/Ice Trash Collection

If garbage service is cancelled due to a snow/ice or other weather event, your garbage and recycling will be picked up on your next regular service day. You can place a double load at the curb at no extra cost. Please remove your carts from the curb and right-of-way by the end of the day in consideration of your neighbors, vehicles, and pedestrians. For more information, visit www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland or call (800) 592-9995.

Flooding Prevention

- Remove leaves and debris from the storm drain and gutter and place the material in a yard waste container.
- Do not blow or rake leaves into the street.
- Before and during a storm, check storm drain grates and the surrounding area frequently to make sure they are free of leaves and debris.
- Do not remove the grate from the storm drain opening - this does NOT unclog the system and creates a hazard for everyone.

To adopt a drain in your neighborhood or for more information, visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us and type "keep streets clear" in the search box or call Public Works at (425) 587-3800.



Residential Recycling Collection Event

PRESENTED BY: City of Kirkland & King County
WHAT: Residential Collection Event
WHERE: Houghton Park & Ride (NE 70th St & 116th Ave NE)
WHEN: Saturday, October 11, 9 AM to 3 PM

This is a great opportunity to clean out your garage and safely recycle items that normally cannot be left at the curb with your regular Waste Management pick-up service. Examples of items that you can bring are: tires, motor oil, batteries, clothing, porcelain toilets and sinks, electronic equipment and televisions.*

Not sure what to do with those hard to recycle items? Visit King County's "What Do I Do With..." page from www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle.

Fluorescent tubes and bulbs can be recycled at this event!
(limit 10 tubes/bulbs per person)

User Fee Items (cash only):

Porcelain toilets/sinks - \$5
Propane tanks (empty, residential only) - \$5
Small camping propane tanks (empty) - \$1
TV sets (36" or smaller) - \$20
TV sets (37" or larger, console/big screen) - \$25
TV sets (projection) - \$30
Computer monitors - \$10

Please see www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/facilities
or call (206) 296-4466 for
tips on securing your load.



*Restrictions apply and some items are not collected. User fees cover the cost of proper processing and recycling. All items collected will be recycled. View the flyer at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle or call the Recycling Hotline at (425) 587-3812 for more information.

Funding provided by the King County Solid Waste Division, King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Kirkland Green E-Updates

Got email? Get great information on everything "green" by subscribing to Kirkland Green E-Updates!
Visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us and click on the Kirkland Email Alerts icon.

Kirkland E-Mail Alerts



Reuse • Recycle • Conserve



City of Kirkland
Department of Public Works
123 5th Avenue
Kirkland, Washington 98033

PRESORTED STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
KIRKLAND, WA
PERMIT NO. 268

Kirkland Residents: Did You Know?



500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed and discarded annually worldwide - more than a million a minute!

Consider using reusable shopping bags made of eco-friendly material. They continue to be the option with the least environmental impact. Contact the Recycling Hotline at recycle@ci.kirkland.wa.us or (425) 587-3812 for a free reusable shopping bag.

